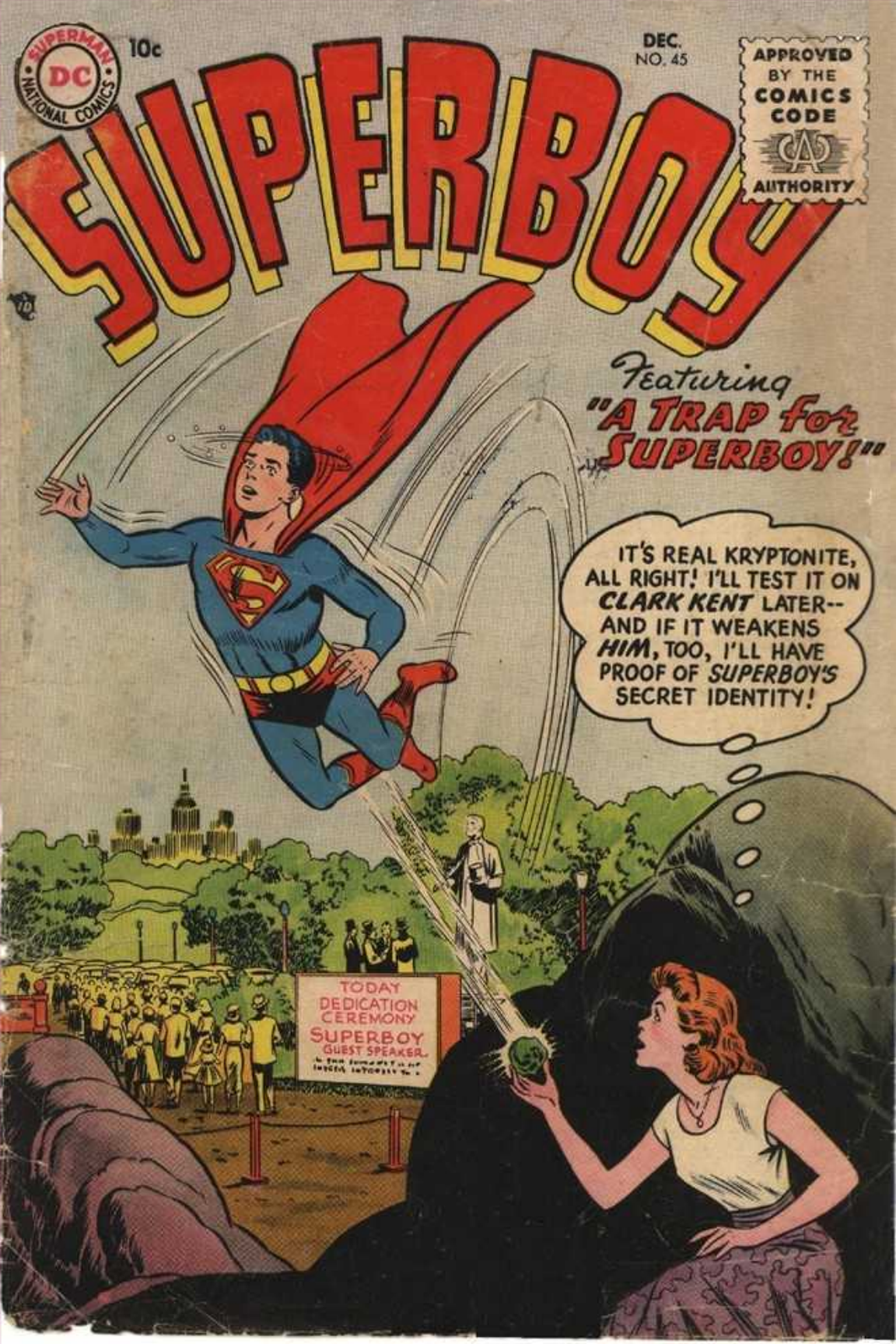
SUPERMAN
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NO. 45
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERBOY
Featuring "A TRAP for SUPERBOY!"
IT'S REAL KRYPTONITE, ALL RIGHT! I'LL TEST IT ON CLARK KENT LATER-- AND IF IT WEAKENS HIM, TOO, I'LL HAVE PROOF OF SUPERBOY'S SECRET IDENTITY!
TODAY
DEDICATION
CEREMONY
SUPERBOY
GUEST SPEAKER

SUPERBOY

The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND AN AUCTION AT WHICH **SUPERBOY SOUVENIRS** WERE TO BE SOLD? AND HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY AN ITEM FOR WHICH **SUPERBOY** WOULD GIVE ALMOST ANYTHING IN RETURN? DOUBTLESS, YOU'D RETURN IT FOR JUST THE MONEY YOU PAID... BUT "SILK" SIMMONS DIDN'T, AND--WELL, SEE FOR YOURSELF THE AMAZING CONSEQUENCES THAT FOLLOWED THE...

INCREDIBLE SUPERBOY AUCTION

AREN'T YOU AFRAID--COMMITTING A CRIME IN BROAD DAYLIGHT--WITH **SUPERBOY** WATCHING?

DON'T FORGET THE SUPERBOY AUCTION

DON'T WORRY... **SUPERBOY** WON'T BOTHER ME NOW THAT I HAVE THIS NECKLACE TROPHY THAT I BOUGHT AT THE AUCTION OF HIS SOUVENIRS!

ONE MORNING IN THE SMALLVILLE HOME OF CLARK KENT, WHO IS SECRETLY, **SUPERBOY**...

I'LL BE GONE TWO DAYS ON MY GOOD-WILL TOUR OF THE WORLD'S CAPITALS--SO I WANT TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR YOU WHILE I'M AWAY! ANY MORE CHORES, MOM?

NO, THANKS, SON--YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING I CAN THINK OF, FASTER THAN I COULD THINK OF IT!

KRASSSHH!

SO A FEW MINUTES LATER, A TRANSFORMED CLARK PREPARES TO LEAVE...

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES WHILE I'M GONE!

WE WILL--AND WE'LL MISS YOU!

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THE KENTS MISS THEIR SUPER SON MORE THAN THEY EXPECT--FOR NEXT MORNING, AS THEY PREPARE TO OPEN THEIR GENERAL STORE...
OUR STORE--ON FIRE! AND I NEGLECTED TO SEND IN THE CHECK FOR INSURANCE! WE--WE MUST SAVE WHAT WE CAN... EVERY CENT WE OWN IS GOING UP IN FLAMES!
KENT GEN STORE

A LITTLE LATER, AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVES...
THANK GOODNESS NEITHER OF THEM IS SERIOUSLY BURNT... JUST A LITTLE SMOKE POISONING! A FEW DAYS IN THE HOSPITAL AND THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

AFTERWARD, AS PA KENT SITS AT HIS WIFE'S HOSPITAL BEDSIDE...
WE--WE'RE PENNILESS... EVERYTHING RUINED! OF COURSE, WE COULD ASK OUR SON SUPERBOY TO HELP US FINANCIALLY--HE COULD DO IT IN MANY WAYS, BUT...
BUT WE WON'T LET HIM! AS HIS PARENTS, WE MUST TEACH HIM NEVER TO USE HIS SUPER-POWERS FOR SELFISH REASONS!
THERE'S ONLY ONE HOPE--THE CRATE OF MEMENTOS BELONGING TO OUR FAMILY! A REVOLUTIONARY FLINTLOCK--MY GREAT GRANDFATHER'S WHALING HARPOON... WE CAN HAVE CLARK AUCTION THEM OFF!
YES--THEY'VE BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS... BUT NOW THERE'S NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO DISPOSE OF THEM!

SO, ANTICIPATING HIS SON'S RETURN, PA KENT GIVES ORDERS TO HAVE THE CRATE PICKED UP IN HIS CELLAR AND BROUGHT TO THE STORE...
DID HE SAY THE ROUND CRATE--OR THE SQUARE ONE?
LET'S SEE... I THINK... YEAH, THE ROUND ONE--THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE SAID--AND THIS LITTLE MISTAKE IS DESTINED TO HAVE BIG CONSEQUENCES!
IN THE MEANTIME, AFTER SUPERBOY HAS RETURNED FROM HIS WORLD TOUR...
YES, DAD, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T WANT ME TO USE MY SUPER POWERS TO HELP, AND I RESPECT YOU FOR THAT DECISION! I'LL BE GLAD TO ACT AS AUCTIONEER!
GOOD! I'VE ALREADY HAD THE CRATE OF MEMENTOS DELIVERED TO THE GENERAL STORE--AND NOTICES PLACED IN THE PAPERS! SHOULD BRING A LOT OF PEOPLE!

YES, THERE'S QUITE A CROWD WHEN CLARK GETS THERE-- AND AN EXCITED CROWD, TOO...
THOSE MUST BE SUPERBOY MEMENTOS! I RECOGNIZE THAT SWORD BENT INTO A CIRCLE... SUPERBOY USED IT AS A HOOP, TO TRIP A FLEEING CRIMINAL!
AND THAT SILVER FOOTPRINT--HIS OWN--WHEN HE LEAPED REAL HARD ONTO THE SILVER HOME PLATE USED TO COMMEMORATE THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF SMALLVILLE'S BALL PARK!
GOLLY... I--I NEVER SUSPECTED PA WOULD SELL MY COLLECTION OF PRIVATE SUPERBOY SOUVENIRS! I GUESS HE REALLY NEEDED THE MONEY, BUT--HMM... HOW WILL I EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT THESE MEMENTOS ARE IN THE KENT FAMILY'S POSSESSION?

WITH SUPERBOY'S REPUTATION, THIS IS ONE MATTER YOU WON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN, CLARK...
IT'S JUST LIKE SUPERBOY TO GIVE THE KENTS THOSE SOUVENIRS! HE ALWAYS FINDS A WAY TO HELP THE NEEDY!
OF COURSE! I'D PROBABLY HAVE DONE THIS ANYHOW, IF THERE WERE NO OTHER WAY TO RAISE MONEY!
AUCTION DAY

FASCINATED, THE AUDIENCE WATCHES AS CLARK SELECTS THE FIRST SOUVENIR AND TELLS THE STORY OF ITS ORIGIN...
WHAT AM I BID FOR THIS WEIRD STONE FLOWER--WHICH COMES FROM A PLACE MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY?

"SUPERBOY BROUGHT THIS SOUVENIR BACK FROM A DISTANT PLANET..."
LIVING PLANTS AND TREES OF STONE, JADE AND OTHER MINERALS! I'LL TAKE JUST ONE FOR MY PRIVATE COLLECTION!

AFTER SOME SPIRITED BIDDING, CLARK SELECTS ANOTHER SOUVENIR...
JUST AN ORDINARY MARBLE--BUT THERE'S A FASCINATING STORY BEHIND IT! SUPERBOY WAS JUST A TOT, PLAYING WITH SOME FRIENDS, WHEN HE NOTICED SOME THIEVES MAKING A GETAWAY IN THEIR CAR...

"QUICKLY, HE AIMED THIS VERY MARBLE, AND..."
THOSE CROOKS WILL HAVE TO STOP WHEN THE GAS RUNS OUT OF THEIR CAR THROUGH THE HOLE I MADE WITH MY MARBLE!
SMALLVILLE BANK
KRANNGGG!

TERRIFIC! I BID $300!
MAKE IT $310!
GOSH--I NEVER THOUGHT THESE SIMPLE SOUVENIRS WOULD BRING THAT MUCH! AT THIS RATE, DAD WILL SOON HAVE ENOUGH TO GO BACK INTO BUSINESS AGAIN!

AND AS THE AUCTION CONTINUES...
THERE'S AN INTERESTING TALE ATTACHED TO THIS LEAD CONTAINER. AS YOU ALL KNOW, SUPERBOY HAS A SECRET IDENTITY, AND LIVES WITH FOSTER-PARENTS! WELL, HIS DAD ONCE BOUGHT A WRISTWATCH FOR HIS BIRTHDAY...

"...AND THIS CONTAINER MADE IT POSSIBLE TO PRESENT THE GIFT AS A SURPRISE!"
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SON! I KEPT THE WATCH IN THIS SPECIAL BOX BECAUSE I KNEW THAT LEAD IS THE ONE SUBSTANCE YOUR X-RAY VISION CAN'T PENETRATE!

DAD DID FOOL ME THAT WAY AND... WH-WHAT? "SILK" SIMMONS, A GANGSTER WHO'S BEEN TOO CLEVER TO GET CAUGHT, IS BIDDING ON THIS MEMENTO! I'D RATHER NOT TAKE HIS DIRTY MONEY--BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE!
I BID 100 BUCKS!

AND AFTER A FEW MORE BIDS...
SOLD TO THAT GENTLEMAN--FOR $400!
HA-HA... WHAT A GAG WHEN I SHOW THIS TO THE BOYS! IMAGINE... ME--OWNING SOMETHING THAT WAS SUPERBOY'S! I'LL KEEP IT FOR A GOOD-LUCK CHARM!
TOO BAD, CLARK--BUT UNKNOWINGLY, YOU'VE MADE ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES OF YOUR SUPER-CAREER!

AFTER THE AUCTION...
HMM...THERE'S ONE SOUVENIR I DIDN'T COME ACROSS! I'D NEVER HAVE SOLD IT--AND DAD KNOWS WHY! I--I GUESS HE PUT IT ELSEWHERE FOR SAFEKEEPING...BUT I'D BETTER CHECK ANYHOW!
AND WHEN CLARK DOES CHECK WITH HIS DAD...
WH-WHAT? I--I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE--YOUR SELLING MY SOUVENIRS! YOU NEVER INTENDED TO... IT--IT WAS A MISTAKE OF THE DELIVERY MEN!
YES, SON--AND THE ITEM YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WAS IN THAT LITTLE LEAD CONTAINER, SAFE FROM THE ELEMENTS! YOU'VE ACCIDENTALLY SOLD IT!
YOU'D BETTER CHANGE TO SUPERBOY AND GET IT BACK AT ONCE!
I DON'T WANT TO UPSET DAD MORE BY TELLING HIM WHO BOUGHT IT--BUT THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERBOY! I REMEMBER WELL HOW I MADE THAT OBJECT--TO SAVE SOME HUNTERS ON A JUNGLE TRIP!
A LITTLE LATER...
THOSE HUNTERS HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY A SAVAGE TRIBE--AND WERE TO BE KILLED WITHIN AN HOUR! THE NATIVES THOUGHT I WAS AN EVIL GOD AND THREATENED TO KILL THEM IMMEDIATELY IF I SO MUCH AS APPEARED! I KNEW I'D HAVE TO RELY ON MY SUPER-WITS...
...SO AFTER SOME THOUGHT, I REMEMBERED THE EXTINCT VOLCANO THAT HOVERED OVER THE VILLAGE! ACCORDING TO LEGEND, WHEN THAT VOLCANO ERUPTED, IT MEANT THE GODS WERE ANGRY WITH THE TRIBESMEN..."
I'LL DIVE BELOW, GET A HUGE CHUNK OF SALT, EXTRACT THE SODIUM FROM IT, AND COMPRESS THAT SODIUM INTO A SMALL BALL!
KRASH
"USING SUPER-PRESSURE, I DID JUST THAT--AND THEN COVERED THE SODIUM WITH A FILM OF PLASTIC THAT WOULD KEEP OUT THE AIR AND MELT IN WATER..."
ON CONTACT WITH WATER, COMPRESSED SODIUM CAUSES A TERRIBLE EXPLOSION, AND I HAVE ENOUGH HERE TO MAKE IT SEEM AS IF THE VOLCANO IS ERUPTING WHEN I DIVE INTO THE UNDERGROUND LAKE AT THE BASE OF THIS VOLCANO! THAT WILL MAKE THE NATIVES CHANGE THEIR MINDS!
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"WEARING IT AS A NECKLACE LEFT MY HANDS FREE TO DRILL THROUGH ROCK TO THE SUBTERRANEAN LAKE. HOWEVER, JUST AS I DOVE..."
WH-WHAT? THE NATIVES MUST HAVE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART! NOW, IF I CAUSE AN EXPLOSION, THEY'LL THINK THE GODS ARE ANGRY AT THEM FOR FREEING THOSE HUNTERS--SO I'LL JUST LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE, AND KEEP THIS AS A SOUVENIR!
THAT "SOUVENIR", ENCASED IN THE LEAD CONTAINER, IS NOW LEGALLY OWNED BY A CRIMINAL, WHO DOESN'T REALIZE THAT ALL IT HAS TO DO IS TOUCH WATER TO BLOW UP A WHOLE CITY BLOCK!
AND AS SUPERBOY NEARS "SILK'S" ROOM...
LOOK AT THIS FUNNY NECKLACE I FOUND HIDDEN IN THE LEAD BOX! TO TAUNT SUPERBOY, I'LL WEAR IT WHEREVER I GO!
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S BOUND TO COME IN CONTACT WITH WATER IF HE DOES THAT! I--I MUST GET IT BACK!
BUT UPON CONFRONTING THE GANGSTER...
WHAT--? YOU'RE WILLING TO BUY BACK THIS NECKLACE AND REPLACE IT WITH ANOTHER SOUVENIR? NOSIREE, SUPERBOY--IF YOU WANT IT THAT BAD, IT MUST BE VALUABLE!
HMM--I COULD EASILY GRAB IT FROM HIM, AND NO ONE WOULD BLAME ME...
...BUT I THINK I HAVE A MUCH BETTER SOLUTION, PROVIDED I CAN KEEP THE NECKLACE FROM TOUCHING WATER WHILE I WORK THINGS OUT!
AND SIMMONS DEPARTS WITH HIS PRIZE...
WHO KNOWS?... MAYBE THE SECRET OF HIS IDENTITY IS WRAPPED UP IN IT SOMEHOW--OR MAYBE IT'S A CLUE TO WHERE THERE'S A FORTUNE STASHED AWAY! I'LL KEEP IT--TILL I FIND THE SECRET!
I'LL REPLACE THIS STEEL DOOR KNOB LATER... RIGHT NOW I CAN USE IT!
NOT VERY TASTY--BUT NOT HARMFUL TO MY TEETH! I'LL--WAIT!... CLOUDS ABOVE! IT MAY RAIN ANY SECOND--AND SIMMONS IS OUT WALKING WITH THAT NECKLACE EXPOSED!
CRUNCH
WHAT IS SUPERBOY PLANNING? CAN YOU GUESS?

BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...
I WONDER WHY SUPERBOY'S DIVERTING THOSE CLOUDS? SMALLVILLE NEEDS A GOOD RAIN?
YEAH--IT SURE IS FUNNY! I'VE BEEN READING THAT THE PEOPLE WANT RAIN!
JOB
YES, EVERYBODY WONDERS--AND THEN AN EVEN MORE PUZZLING EPISODE OCCURS...
YOU BAD MANS! I SHOOT!
GOOD GRIEF! A WATER PISTOL--AIMED RIGHT AT THAT NECKLACE! HAVE TO ACT FAST...
STORE
NO REPAIRS
ABRUPTLY...
MY--MY GUN... ALL MELTED!
SORRY, SONNY... I MELTED IT, WITH THE HEAT OF MY X-RAY VISION! I'LL GET YOU A BETTER ONE SOON!
SUPERBOY--MELTING THAT GUN! AND THE RAIN HE STOPPED... HMM... THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO ADD UP!
THE BIG SALE
I BET FOR SOME REASON SUPERBOY DOESN'T WANT THIS TO GET WET! I'M GONNA MAKE SURE--AND THEN, IF I'M RIGHT, I'LL KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO!
WATCH OUT, SUPERBOY! YOU MAY HAVE MADE A SAD MISTAKE BY NOT TAKING THAT SOUVENIR BACK!
SOMEWHAT LATER, AS THE BOY OF STEEL CONTINUES HIS TRAILING...
HE MUST HAVE DEDUCED THAT I'VE DELIBERATELY BEEN SHIELDING HIM FROM WATER, AND IS TESTING ME OUT! ONLY ONE THING TO DO... RIP OFF THAT SLUICEWAY AND REPLACE IT LATER!
NEXT INSTANT, AS SIMMONS DIVES...
MY SUPER-BREATH, FUNNELED DOWN THE GROOVE OF THIS SLUICE-WAY, BLOWS AWAY ALL THE WATER WHERE HE'S DIVING, AND LEAVES A PERFECTLY WATERLESS SPOT FOR HIM!
WHOOSH
BUT THIS IS ALSO THE PROOF NEEDED BY THE CUNNING CRIMINAL...
I WAS RIGHT! FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER, HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO KEEP THE THING DRY... AND THAT PUTS SUPERBOY IN MY POWER!
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SO SOON AFTERWARD, AT THE SMALLVILLE BANK...
OKAY--WE WANT EVERY CENT YOU GOT IN THIS BANK!
AND YOU WON'T STOP US EITHER, SUPERBOY! IF YOU TRY, I'LL POUR WATER RIGHT ON THIS NECKLACE!
GO AHEAD--POUR... I WON'T STOP YOU!
CASHIER
OKAY--YOU ASKED FOR IT! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU TRIED TO STOP ME, BUT... HUH--? NOTHING'S HAPPENING!
NOT NOW! A FEW MINUTES AGO, YOU MIGHT HAVE BLOWN UP THE BANK!
...BUT I'VE BEEN CHEWING ON THIS DOORKNOB FOR THE LAST FEW HOURS--GRINDING THE STEEL INTO TINY, ALMOST INVISIBLE PARTICLES! WHILE I FOLLOWED YOU...
"...I BLEW THESE PARTICLES RIGHT INTO THE SODIUM CAPSULE!"
THE TINY PARTICLES ARE BEING EMBEDDED INTO THE PLASTIC COVER, BIT BY BIT! SOON, THE ENTIRE CAPSULE WILL BE COATED WITH STEEL, WHICH WON'T MELT ON CONTACT WITH WATER!
WHEN YOU REFUSED TO RETURN THE NECKLACE, I REALIZED I COULD MAKE IT SERVE THE ENDS OF JUSTICE! YOU'RE A CROOK WHO'S EVADED THE LAW--BUT I KNEW IF I TEMPTED YOU, YOU'D USE THE NECKLACE TO COMMIT A CRIME, AND THE LAW WOULD FINALLY CATCH UP WITH YOU!
AND SO, LATER, AS SUPERBOY WELCOMES HIS PARENTS HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL...
DON'T BE UPSET, DAD... THE SALE OF MY SOUVENIRS DID PUT YOU BACK INTO BUSINESS--AND IT DID GIVE ME A WAY TO TRAP SIMMONS INTO THE JAIL SENTENCE HE DESERVED! AND FINALLY, IT BEGAN A NEW COLLECTION OF SOUVENIRS--WITH THIS DOORKNOB I CHEWED!
THE END

SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY
SUPPOSE YOU HAD AN IMPORTANT SECRET TO TELL JUST ONE PERSON, BUT COULDN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD WITHOUT OTHERS HEARING? IN WHAT OTHER WAY COULD YOU GET YOUR MESSAGE ACROSS? WELL, LET SUPERBOY SHOW YOU HOW! FOR ONE DAY, IN ORDER TO SEND A SECRET MESSAGE HOME, THE BOY OF STEEL MUST CLEVERLY USE A WELL-KNOWN GAME TO TRANSMIT...
THE SECRET OF THE SUPER CHARADES
HA, HA... LOOK AT SUPERBOY PRETENDING TO "RACE" THAT LIGHTNING BOLT! HA, HA, HA!
EVERYBODY IN TOWN THINKS I'M JUST CLOWNING! THEY DON'T KNOW I'M REALLY ACTING OUT A SECRET CHARADE FOR DAD KENT!
ONE DAY, IN THE HOME OF CLARK KENT AND HIS FOSTER PARENTS...
WHY THE SUDDEN LAUGH, MARTHA?
HA, HA... I WAS JUST THINKING OF THAT GAME OF CHARADES WE PLAYED THE OTHER EVENING, WITH OUR FRIENDS! AND HOW FUNNY YOU LOOKED. SO FUNNY ROLLING ACROSS THE FLOOR, JONATHAN... HA, HA, HA!
WELL, AFTER ALL, HOW ELSE COULD I GET ACROSS THE WORD "ROLLING" WHEN I HAD TO ACT OUT THE PHRASE... "A ROLLING STONE GATHERS NO MOSS"?
HA, HA--JONATHAN CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING... ROLLING!

WELL, WE ALL HAD FUN, ANYWAY! LET ME SEE... I NEED A BIGGER NEEDLE NOW FOR THIS SEWING!
AH--NOW'S MY CHANCE! I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL DAY TO PULL THIS GAG ON MOM!
HERE, MOM--WILL THIS ONE DO?
LAND SAKES!
HA, HA... NOW WHO'S LAUGHING, MARTHA?
YES, EVEN CLARK KENT, WHO IS REALLY SUPERBOY, LIKES TO PLAY AN OCCASIONAL JOKE ON HIS FOLKS...
I USED THIS SUPER-NEEDLE YESTERDAY, TO SEW UP A BIG TORN AWNING IN TOWN! IT'LL MAKE A NICE ADDITION TO MY SUPERBOY SOUVENIR COLLECTION, AND... WHAT--?
ATTENTION! STORM WARNING!
A FREAK ELECTRICAL STORM IS MOVING TOWARD SMALLVILLE! RESIDENTS WARNED TO TAKE COVER!
GOLLY--THIS SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE THE WORST LIGHTNING STORM WE EVER HAD!
LITTLE DO YOU SUSPECT, CLARK, HOW MUCH TROUBLE THIS STORM IS GOING TO CAUSE YOU!
ANY HOMES OR BUILDINGS WITHOUT LIGHTNING RODS WILL BE IN DANGER...
I'VE FLOWN OVER TOWN OFTEN ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT MANY PLACES HAVE NO LIGHTNING RODS! NO TIME TO WASTE...
OUTER GARMENTS DROP AWAY, AND MILD-MANNERED CLARK STREAKS TO THE RESCUE IN HIS OTHER IDENTITY OF--SUPERBOY!
SMALLVILLE NEEDS PROTECTION--BUT FITTING EVERY BUILDING IN TOWN WITH A LIGHTNING ROD WOULD TAKE TOO LONG! I HAVE A BETTER IDEA...
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SOON, AT A SCRAP METAL DUMP...
WHY NOT ONE GIANT LIGHTNING ROD TO PROTECT THE WHOLE TOWN? THE HEAT OF MY X-RAY VISION SOFTENS THIS STEEL ENOUGH FOR ME TO MOLD IT INTO A THICK ROD!
SECONDS LATER, AT A PARK IN THE CENTER OF SMALLVILLE...
OF COURSE, THAT SUPER-LIGHTNING ROD WILL NEED A STURDY SUPPORT! I'LL FLY BACK FOR MORE BUILDING MATERIALS!
POLICE FIRING RANGE
JUST THEN...
OH, OH-- HERE COME THE FIRST FLASHES! I'LL USE MY TELESCOPIC VISION TO SEE IF MOM AND DAD ARE ALL RIGHT, AND... WAIT! THAT'S LANA LANG RUNNING OVER FROM HER HOUSE NEXT DOOR!
OH, THAT AWFUL LIGHTNING!
MY PARENTS ARE GONE FOR THE DAY, AND I--I'M FRIGHTENED TO BE ALONE! MAY I STAY HERE TILL THE STORM'S OVER, MRS. KENT?
WHY, OF COURSE, POOR THING!
BUT I'D BETTER ACCOUNT FOR CLARK'S ABSENCE...
SMOOTHLY, AS MANY TIMES BEFORE, MOM KENT COVERS UP...
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SCARED, LANA, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN CLARK WHEN HE... WELL-- I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU!
NO, I CAN GUESS! HE PROBABLY TOOK THE NEXT BUS OUT OF TOWN TO ESCAPE THE STORM! POOR, TIMID CLARK!
BUT, AS ALWAYS, THERE STILL LURKS SUSPICION IN LANA LANG'S MIND...
HMM... CLARK GONE-- AND SUPERBOY FLYING AROUND, AS I CAN SEE FROM THIS WINDOW! IS THAT BECAUSE SUPERBOY AND CLARK ARE THE SAME PERSON? IF ONLY I HAD SOME REAL PROOF!
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As SUPERBOY SUDDENLY REALIZES, SOME PERFECT PROOF EXISTS ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY FROM LANA...

OH GOLLY! THAT SUPER-NEEDLE ON THE FIREPLACE... I FORGOT TO PUT IT AWAY! IF LANA SEES IT, SHE'LL KNOW ONLY SUPERBOY COULD HAVE MADE IT... YET, I CAN'T RUSH HOME RIGHT NOW!

I'VE GOT TO HURRY AND ERECT THE GIANT LIGHTNING ROD! I CAN'T SEND A SUPER-SHOUT HOME, NOR CALL THEM UP EITHER, SINCE LANA MIGHT OVERHEAR! YET HOW ELSE CAN I GET A WARNING MESSAGE TO DAD AND MOM?

WHAT IS THE BOY OF STEEL'S ODD PLAN?

WAIT... THAT SIGN GIVES ME A GREAT IDEA! LUCKILY, IT'S UP HIGH ENOUGH TO BE VISIBLE FROM OUR HOUSE--SO I CAN FLASH A SILENT MESSAGE, WITHOUT LANA SUSPECTING!

ATTENTION, FOLKS S.O.S. CHARITY NEEDS YOUR AID

WITH MY X-RAY VISION, I CAN MAKE THOSE THREE WORDS SHINE OUT BRIGHTLY... BUT WILL MOM OR DAD CATCH ON?

ATTENTION, FOLKS S.O.S. CHARITY NEEDS YOUR AID

LIKE ANY PROUD FATHER, DAD KENT HAS BEEN WATCHING HIS SUPER-SON ALL ALONG--AND SO...

STRANGE... WHY WOULD SUPERBOY PAUSE, FOR NO GOOD REASON, TO MAKE THOSE WORDS SHINE?... "ATTENTION, FOLKS--SOS!" HMM... IF WE'RE HIS "FOLKS"--AND "S.O.S." IS A DISTRESS CALL--THEN HE MUST HAVE SOME MESSAGE FOR US THAT LANA SHOULDN'T KNOW OF!

MY TELESCOPIC VISION SHOWED DAD WATCHING INTENTLY--SO HE MUST'VE GOTTEN MY S.O.S.! NOW TO LIGHT UP TWO KEY SYLLABLES, WHICH I HOPE WILL REMIND HIM OF THAT GAME THEY PLAYED!

S.O.S. CHARITY NEEDS YOUR AID

SUPERBOY IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING! "CHAR?.. AID?" BUT THAT'S JUST NONSENSE UNLESS... WAIT! BY GEORGE--PUTTING THEM TOGETHER MAKES "CHARADE", THAT GAME WE PLAYED RECENTLY!
THAT MUST BE IT! SUPERBOY INTENDS TO ACT OUT SOME SECRET MESSAGE FOR US! I'LL SIGNAL HIM THAT I UNDERSTAND!
DAD WINKED AT ME... HE GOT IT! NOW I CAN WARN HIM OF THE SUPER-NEEDLE WITH A CHARADE--WITHOUT TIPPING OFF LANA, AND WITHOUT INTERRUPTING MY WORK!
A GOOD TRICK, SUPERBOY--IF YOU CAN DO IT!
FIRST I'LL CONSTRUCT THIS SUPPORT IN THE PARK, FOR THE HUGE MASTER LIGHTNING ROD! DAD CAN'T SEE ANY OF THIS, WHICH IS NOT PART OF THE MESSAGE ANYWAY!
A MOMENT LATER, SUPERBOY IS READY TO TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE...
I'LL REPLACE THESE TWO LONG BOARDS FROM THIS STADIUM LATER! RIGHT NOW, I NEED THEM FOR STILTS, WHICH WILL FURNISH THE FIRST WORD OF MY CHARADE TO DAD!
THERE IS NO INTERRUPTION IN HIS VITAL JOB, HOWEVER, AS SUPERBOY BEGINS HIS SUPER-CHARADE AT THE SAME TIME...
MY CHARADE WILL BE THREE WORDS--AND DOING SOMETHING POINTLESS WILL TIP OFF DAD, EACH TIME, THAT I'M ACTING OUT A WORD! FOR INSTANCE, I COULD JUST FLY AND DO THIS, INSTEAD OF USING STILTS!

AND WHERE DAD KENT WATCHES WITH A BIT OF PUZZLEMENT...
SINCE THOSE STILTS ARE TOTALLY UNNECESSARY FOR HIS JOB, SUPERBOY IS OBVIOUSLY USING IT FOR HIS CHARADE! LET'S SEE... WOOD?... BOARDS?... WALKING? GOSH, I--I'M STUMPED!
NO--WAIT! HE'S HIGH UP IN THE AIR--REAL TALL! ONE WORD FITS THAT STUNT PERFECTLY! I'VE GOT IT!
DO YOU GET IT, TOO? SEE IF YOU CAN WORK OUT SUPERBOY'S EXCITING THREE-WORD CHARADE, ALONG WITH DAD KENT!

JEEPERS! WHY WOULD SUPERBOY USE STILTS LIKE THAT, INSTEAD OF SIMPLY FLYING? WHAT'S HE UP TO, ANYWAY?
OH, OH... LANA'S GETTING SUSPICIOUS! BUT SHE MUSTN'T SUSPECT THIS IS A CHARADE, BECAUSE SUPERBOY OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO TRANSMIT A SECRET MESSAGE! HMM...
CLEVERLY, DAD KENT COVERS UP...
...TENSE AND JITTERY, SMALLVILLE IS AWAITING THE LIGHTNING STORM...
HA, HA... DON'T YOU GET IT, LANA? NOTHING LIKE A LAUGH TO CURE THE JITTERS YOU KNOW! HA, HA!
I SEE... SUPERBOY IS CLOWNING TO GIVE FOLKS A CHUCKLE, AND RELIEVE THEIR FEARS OF THE STORM! ISN'T HE WONDERFUL?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, WITH MANY OTHERS WATCHING, TOO, SUPERBOY HIMSELF REALIZES THE SAME THING!
HA, HA... LOOK AT SUPERBOY "DANCING" NOW! HA, HA, HA!
BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO THINK OF PUTTING MY SECOND WORD ACROSS AND... HOLD IT! LIGHTNING SET THAT TREE ON FIRE! GOT TO PUT IT OUT BEFORE IT SPREADS!
BESIDES BUILDING THE GIANT ROD AND WORKING THE CHARADE, IT SEEMS I'M KEEPING LOTS OF WORRIED PEOPLE ENTERTAINED!
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AND SUPER-THINKING QUICKLY CONVERTS THIS PROBLEM INTO HIS SECOND WORD...
DOING THE "SPLITS" ON STILTS WILL FURNISH MORE LAUGHS--BUT I'M UPROOTING THE BURNING TREE IN ORDER TO CARRY ON MY CHARADE!
THE TREE WILL BURN OUT HARMLESSLY HERE... AND WILL ALSO CALL DAD'S ATTENTION TO THIS OBELISK WHICH HAS ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN HISTORICAL NAME!
INSTEAD OF EASILY HURLING IT INTO THE PARK POND, SUPERBOY PUT THE BURNING TREE ON THAT--THAT... OF COURSE! I'VE GOT IT!
ARE YOU KEEPING RIGHT UP WITH DAD KENT?...GOT THE SECOND WORD? ONLY ONE MORE TO GO NOW!
BUT SUPERBOY MUST FIRST FINISH THE SUPER-LIGHTNING ROD, AS THE ELECTRICAL STORM STRIKES WITH ALL ITS FURY...
STICKING UP HIGH, THE GIANT ROD ATTRACTS ALL BOLTS! NONE WILL STRIKE IN TOWN BELOW! BUT I'LL HAVE TO STAY ON GUARD IN CASE HIGH VOLTAGE MELTS THE ROD, REQUIRING QUICK REPAIRS!
NEXT COMES THE THIRD AND LAST WORD OF HIS SUPER-CHARADE...
LUCKILY, THIS PLACE IS NEAR THE ROD--SO I'M STILL ON GUARD! THE POLICE ARE HOLDING PISTOL PRACTICE NOW, FOR A SPECIAL REASON!
THIS IS IDEAL PRACTICE UNDER BAD CONDITIONS, MEN! WE'LL LEARN TO HIT THE TARGET, WITHOUT LETTING LIGHTNING FLASHES IN OUR EYES DISTURB OUR AIM!
POLICE FIRING RANGE

AGAIN, THE BOY OF STEEL BECOMES A SUPER-"CLOWN"...
HA, HA... GREAT, SUPERBOY! YOU'RE HITTING THE SIGN WITH BETTER AIM THAN WE'VE GOT!
BUT THIS PURE "WHIM" SHOULD TIP OFF DAD THAT THE SIGN, SLIGHTLY ALTERED, FURNISHES THE LAST WORD!
POLICE FIRING RANGE
FIRING RANGE? WHAT HIDDEN MEANING CAN THAT HAVE? IT'S A PLACE WHERE THEY FIRE GUNS AND... AH! PLACE... FIRE... A SLIGHT TWIST AND-- THAT'S IT! THAT MAKES SENSE NOW AND FINISHES THE CHARADE!
HAVE YOU SOLVED THE THREE-WORD CHARADE, TOO?

FORTUNATELY, LANA DIDN'T SEE THIS GIANT NEEDLE HERE! NO WONDER SUPERBOY WAS WORRIED... IT COULD'VE GIVEN AWAY HIS SECRET IDENTITY! I'LL HIDE IT AT ONCE!

THUS, AWHILE LATER, WHEN THE STORM ENDS, RELIEVING SUPERBOY OF HIS GUARD DUTY...
LANA'S LEAVING NOW! GREAT, DAD... YOU KEPT HER FROM FINDING OUT I SECRETLY LIVE HERE, BY SOLVING MY CHARADE BRILLIANTLY!
PSHAW! HOW COULD I MISS, SON? YOU MADE IT SUPER-EASY FOR ME!

ON STILTS, YOU WERE A "GIANT"-- THAT OBELISK IS A REPRODUCTION OF THE FAMOUS CLEOPATRA'S "NEEDLE"--AND THE FIRING RANGE IS A PLACE TO FIRE BULLETS, OR A "FIREPLACE"! THAT SHOWED ME WHERE YOU LAID DOWN THE GIANT NEEDLE!
GIANT NEEDLE
FIREPLACE!
SMALLVILLE WAS SAVED FROM DISASTER BY SUPERBOY'S GIANT LIGHTNING ROD!
WHEW! AM I RELIEVED-- IN TWO WAYS! NO STORM DAMAGE, AND NO DAMAGE TO MY SECRET IDENTITY!
AND SO, AS CLARK FINALLY PUTS AWAY THE OBJECT THAT NEARLY BROUGHT ABOUT HIS DOWN-FALL...
WELL, THAT WAS ONE GAME OF CHARADES I HARDLY... ER... ENJOYED-- NOT WITH MY SECRET AT STAKE! BUT LUCKILY, DAD GOT THE "POINT"... DID YOU?
THE END

VARSITY VIC
EIGHT O'CLOCK. JUST IN TIME FOR MY DATE WITH ELLEN.
WELL, I'M HERE ON TIME!
SOD
H'YA, VIC. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'VE GOT A DATE TO MEET ELLEN HERE!
WELL, SHE'S INSIDE! GO RIGHT IN.
SO I SEE. BUT I'M JUST WAITING UNTIL SHE PAYS FOR HER SODA!
END

The Man Who Owned a Volcano

He Invested All His Money in a Piece of Ground to Mine Ancient Treasures. but Suddenly It Began to Erupt

YOU'VE probably heard a dozen versions of the story of the man who bought a phoney gold mine. The versions are all the same. The only difference is, sometimes it's a silver mine. At other times, it's a lead mine.

Like a lot of other people, I always considered myself too shrewd to fall for a trick like that. Just let someone try to sell me a gold, or silver or lead mine! I'd soon enough let him know he was barking up the wrong tree!

Yes, sir—I was always too smart to buy a phoney mine! But not quite smart enough to turn down an offer for an ancient Roman city.

Before you get to thinking that I'm writing this from a lunatic asylum, let me explain how it all came about. The truth of the matter is, the way I first heard about it, it not only made sense but sounded like a terrific opportunity.

This fellow I had met in Rome showed me the maps and the old books he had picked up. The maps and the books were absolutely legitimate—and they proved that a Roman city had once stood on what was now barren ground, on a lot about 100 miles from Mount Vesuvius. The city had been buried when Vesuvius blew its top. But it was all down there—buried beneath a few layers of solid ground.

"Just think!" the promoter had exclaimed, "there must be a million dollars' worth of ancient relics, jewels, and what-not below this spot! And it could all be yours!"

Yes—all mine. All I had to do was buy that little plot of ground. And even with a favorable rate of exchange, it meant risking practically every dime I had to my name—a little over $8,000.

I won't keep you in any more suspense. I bought the barren ground. I forget now exactly how many acres were involved, but it was all mine now. Yes, including a buried Roman city containing millions of dollars' worth of ancient relics, and so forth. All I had to do was dig it up.

Clutching the deed to the property in my inside coat pocket, I went at once to the office of the local government. There

I made known my plans to dig up the Roman city. There I also got the shock of my life.

I don't know why the thought hadn't occurred to be before, but it seems that the officials had long known about that buried city.

As the mayor himself put it:

"My friend, it is in all the school history books. It is no news to us. But if you hope to find riches down there, I am afraid you will be doomed to disappointment. You see, when Mount Vesuvius erupted back in ancient times, the city was evacuated. When the Romans left, they took along their precious belongings. All that you will find are ruins—ruins very similar to many others. Take my advice, and save yourself the trouble and expense."

I don't have to tell you how I felt as I left the government office. My emotions were what is known as "mixed." I was boiling mad at that promoter. And I was filled with sadness at the memory of my life's savings.

I walked back slowly toward my holdings. But my troubles were far from over. On the way back I was met by a neighbor. His eyes were as round as saucers, and I could just about make out his words. But I heard enough to make me realize I was the prize sucker of our times.

"A volcano, neighbor—a live volcano on your property! And it is erupting!"

This was surely the end, I thought. I hurried my steps. Long before I reached it I smelled the odor—a powerful sulphurous smell which the natives call "devil's perfume."

Before long, I had joined the curious crowd that had gathered to witness the unusual sight. The presence of a volcano on my property had not been known. I have since learned that there are many such small volcanos in the area—children of Vesuvius, as it were.

I just stood there and stared.

"Wait'll my friends find out I bought a volcano," I thought, miserably.

The eruption was a minor one. But, as a bystander told me, it would probably keep right on erupting like that for years.

I noticed a number of little kids raking out some of the stuff spewed out from the crater. Souvenirs!

For the next two days, I wracked my brain for a way out of the crazy deal I'd made. And then I received an unexpected visit.

My visitor was a representative from the mineralogy department of the government. He was all smiles. He said, "You are a very lucky man!"

Before I gave way to the temptation of beaning him, he explained:

"You know what is coming out of that crater, my friend? You don't? Then I'll tell you. Alum, potash, magnesia, a calcimine substance, mud, and sulphur!"

"So what?" I growled.

"So this," said the government man, still smiling. "The mud is radioactive. Health resorts will pay good money for it. The sulphur you can sell to industry. Builders will pay a big price for the calcimine material, and as for the hardened lava—it makes fine building blocks. The magnesia you can sell to laboratories, and drug firms will buy the alum."

The prices I got were fantastic. In six months, I had made over $100,000, and government officials predicted I would clear millions from that volcano.

I met the promoter who sold me the property once more. He caught sight of me and took to his heels. But I caught up with him. And when I did I gave him a hundred dollars in good Italian lira. I can still see him standing there, scratching his head, and muttering, "Those crazy Americans!"

—Jack Miller

LITTLE PETE
STOP QUARRELING, BOYS!
FOR THAT YOU CAN BOTH GO TO THE BLACKBOARD AND EACH WRITE YOUR NAME FIFTY TIMES!
IT ISN'T FAIR, TEACHER!
HIS NAME IS ONLY PETE NYE, AND MINE IS JONATHAN QUINCY HEATHERSTONE, JUNIOR!
END

ADVERTISEMENT

"WINGS" WINCHESTER SAVES THE MOVIE THEATER FIRE!
WINGS'LL TURN IN THE ALARM.
HE'S WAY AHEAD ALREADY.
YOU BEAT ME BY A BLOCK, WINGS.
MY WINCHESTER SKATES OUTRACE THEM ALL.
WE'VE GOT IT LICKED NOW, MEN!
WINGS, YOUR SPEED SAVED THE MOVIE THEATER.
ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME WITH WINCHESTER SUPER SPEED SKATES.
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, WINGS.
WOW! LOOK AT 'EM!
Bullet fast . . . each wheel has two rows of ball bearings. All nickel plated . . . FREE red dust caps on wheels . . . FREE red foam rubber ankle pads. Super Strong, too, they seem to wear forever.
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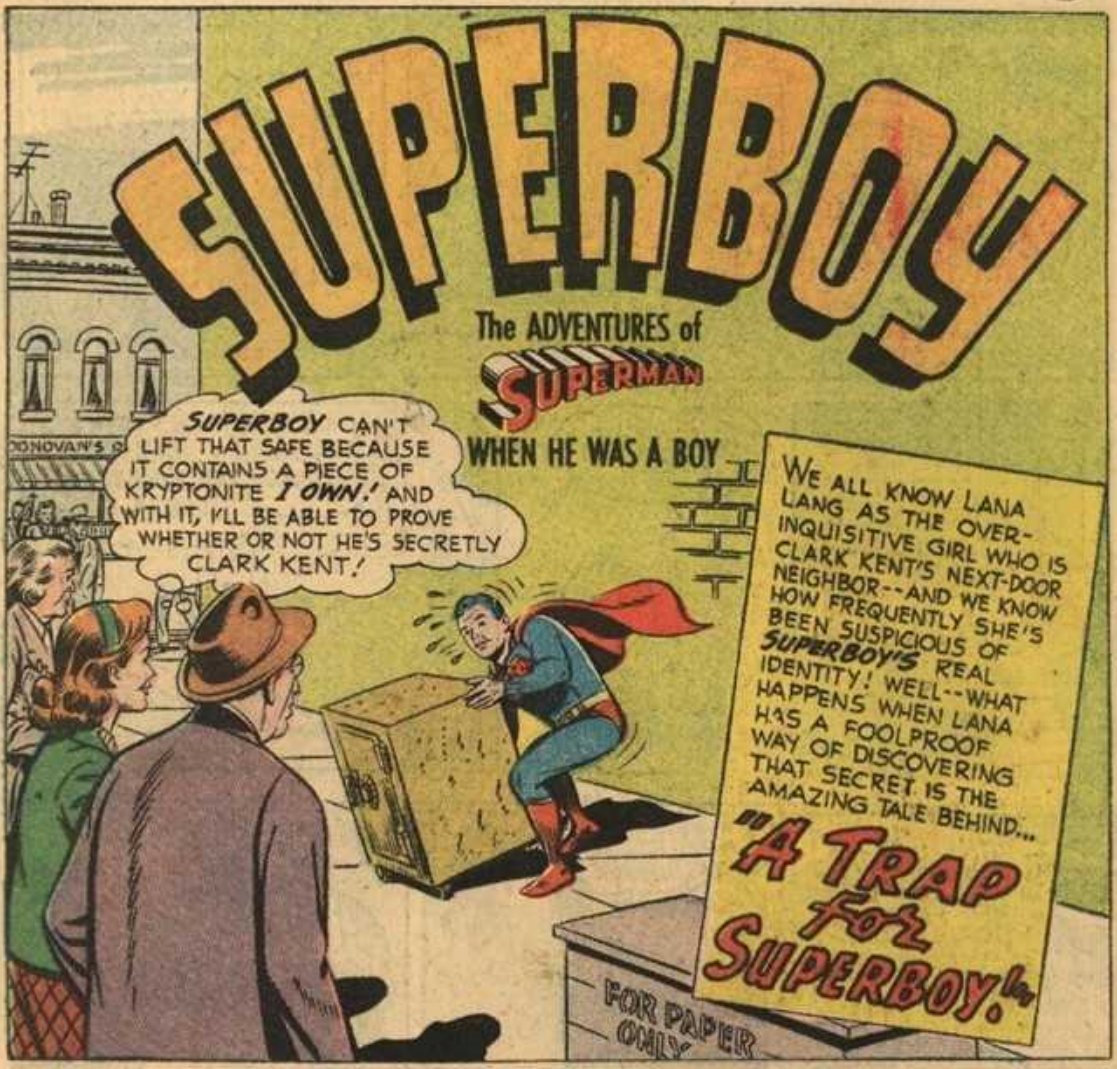
SUPERBOY
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN
WHEN HE WAS A BOY
SUPERBOY CAN'T LIFT THAT SAFE BECAUSE IT CONTAINS A PIECE OF KRYPTONITE I OWN! AND WITH IT, I'LL BE ABLE TO PROVE WHETHER OR NOT HE'S SECRETLY CLARK KENT!
DONOVAN'S
WE ALL KNOW LANA LANG AS THE OVER-INQUISITIVE GIRL WHO IS CLARK KENT'S NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR--AND WE KNOW HOW FREQUENTLY SHE'S BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF SUPERBOY'S REAL IDENTITY! WELL--WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LANA HAS A FOOLPROOF WAY OF DISCOVERING THAT SECRET IS THE AMAZING TALE BEHIND...
"A TRAP for SUPERBOY!"
FOR PAPER ONLY

ONE DAY IN SMALLVILLE, AS CLARK KENT, SECRETLY SUPERBOY, MEETS SMALLVILLE'S MOST CURIOUS LASS, LANA LANG...
OH, CLARK--MY HANDS ARE FULL OF BOOKS! WOULD YOU CRACK THIS WALNUT FOR ME?
I'LL--ER--TRY.
HMM... LANA'S ALWAYS TRYING TO PROVE THAT I'M SUPERBOY! I WONDER IF THIS IS ONE OF HER TRICKS?

CLARK TURNS ON HIS AMAZING MICROSCOPIC VISION, AND...
HMM... THIS WALNUT HAS BEEN OPENED AND RE-SEALED. I CAN SEE TRACES OF GLUE. IT'S PROBABLY FILLED WITH SOMETHING ONLY SUPERBOY COULD BREAK! LUCKY I WAS ALERT!

SORRY, LANA. I--I CAN'T DO IT.
OF COURSE YOU CAN'T--UNLESS YOU'RE SUPERBOY! I REMOVED THE NUTMEAT AND REPLACED IT WITH A ROUND STONE--THEN SEALED THE SHELL TOGETHER AGAIN.
HOWEVER--IT'S STILL POSSIBLE YOU'RE SUPERBOY--AND USED YOUR X-RAY VISION TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE. IF SO, I'LL FIND OUT. I'VE BEEN STUDYING GEOLOGY, AND I CAN FIND OUT IF THE HEAT OF YOUR X-RAY VISION CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THAT PARTICULAR STONE!
HMM... IT'S COLD!
LUCKY I USED MY MICROSCOPIC VISION RATHER THAN MY X-RAY VISION--AND YET--I'M ALWAYS AFRAID THAT SOME DAY LANA WILL TRICK ME INTO REVEALING MY IDENTITY. IF ONLY, ONCE AND FOR ALL, I COULD FIND A WAY TO PROVE I'M NOT--TO HER SATISFACTION!
SUDDENLY...
LOOK--A METEOR--FALLING TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF SMALLVILLE! I'M GOING TO RUSH RIGHT THERE--AND SEE IF I CAN GET ANY UNUSUAL ROCK SPECIMENS!
HMM... ALMOST AN ANSWER TO MY WISH! WHAT AN AN IDEA THAT METEOR GIVES ME!
MOMENTS LATER, CLARK TAKES REFUGE BEHIND SOME SHRUBS TO SHED HIS OUTER GARMENTS, AND...
I'LL HAVE TO ATTEND TO ONE LITTLE CHORE--BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH--THEN USE MY SUPER-SPEED TO GET TO THAT METEOR BEFORE LANA! THEN, MAYBE I CAN CONVINCE HER CLARK ISN'T SUPERBOY!
CAN YOU GUESS WHAT SUPERBOY IS UP TO?
SECONDS AFTERWARDS, TRANSFORMED TO A HUMAN DRILL, THE BOY OF STEEL BURROWS UNDERGROUND, WHERE...
AAAAH--PURE, GLOWING PHOSPHORUS! JUST WHAT I NEED!
2

AND WHILE SUPERBOY PUTS HIS PLAN INTO EFFECT, HE IS UNAWARE THAT WHEN THE METEOR LANDS, A FRAGMENT BREAKS OFF AND FALLS A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY! UNAWARE, TOO, THAT THIS FRAGMENT CONTAINS THE GREATEST THREAT TO HIS CAREER!
SOON... AT THE SITE OF THE FALLEN METEOR...
NOW THAT I'VE CRUSHED THE PHOSPHORUS INTO TINY BITS, I'LL BLOW THEM WITH MY SUPER-BREATH INTO THAT PIECE OF THE METEOR SO HARD THAT THEY WILL BE DEEPLY INBEDDED IN IT! AS A RESULT, THAT PART OF THE METEOR WILL GLOW!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AS LANA ARRIVES...
THAT--THAT PIECE OF ORE IN THE METEOR--GLOWING--I--I WONDER--COULD IT BE--WHAT I--I THINK IT IS?
HMM... SHE'S SWALLOWED MY BAIT--HOOK, LINE AND SINKER!
DON'T BE SURE IT'S LANA WHO'S THE POOR FISH, SUPERBOY!
RUSHING HOME, LANA CONSULTS HER GEOLOGY BOOK...
OH, DEAR--IT--IT IS KRYPTONITE!
YES--KRYPTONITE--THE ONE SUBSTANCE WHICH CAN WEAKEN ME!
MEANWHILE, UNKNOWN TO LANA AND SUPERBOY, SMALLVILLE'S SCIENCE TEACHER MAKES A DISCOVERY OF HIS OWN!
INCREDIBLE! THIS FRAGMENT MUST HAVE BROKEN OFF FROM THE METEOR! IT GLOWS--I WONDER WHAT MINERAL IT IS?
I CAN ALMOST READ LANA'S MIND! SHE'S GOING TO MAKE SURE IT'S KRYPTONITE--THEN TRY IT OUT ON CLARK KENT! IF IT WEAKENS CLARK, SHE'LL KNOW HE'S SUPERBOY! HOWEVER, I KNOW THAT PIECE OF ORE WILL NOT EFFECT CLARK--SO HER TRAP WILL FAIL!
7

AT LAST I CAN FIND OUT IF CLARK IS SUPERBOY! I WON'T REALLY HURT HIM--BUT I MUST LEARN THE TRUTH OR BE CURIOUS THE REST OF MY LIFE. BUT FIRST, I'M GOING TO MAKE DOUBLY SURE THIS IS KRYPTONITE!
NEXT DAY, AS SUPERBOY PREPARES TO HELP OUT ON A SMALLVILLE ROAD PROJECT...
SUPERBOY IS SUPPOSED TO BLAST RIGHT THROUGH THAT HILL TODAY AS THE FIRST STEP IN MAKING A NEW ROAD--AND I PLACED THAT PIECE OF METEOR NEARBY. IF HE--WAIT--IT DOES LOOK AS IF HE'S SLOWING DOWN!
I--ER--THOUGHT--THAT SINCE SO MANY FOLKS HAVE GATHERED TO WATCH ME, I MIGHT AS WELL BLAST THROUGH THAT HILL IN A MORE INTERESTING FASHION!
IT--IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE! HE--HE MUST HAVE WEAKENED AS HE APPROACHED MY KRYPTONITE AND HE'S AFRAID TO GO NEARER IT!
THE BOY OF STEEL APPROACHES A TALL TREE AND...
I GAVE SUPERBOY PERMISSION TO STRIP THAT TREE OF BRANCHES--BUT HOW CAN IT HELP HIM BLAST THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN?
IT LOOKS AS IF MY ACT IS CONVINCING LANA COMPLETELY!
A LITTLE LATER...
I'LL JUST TIE THIS ROPE AROUND THE TREE, THEN BORROW AN OLD GIRDER FROM THE SMALLVILLE JUNKYARD!
PRESENTLY...
I'LL GET A GOOD SIGHT ON THE EXACT SPOT WHERE THE TUNNEL IS TO BE BUILT AND THEN LET GO!

AN INSTANT AFTERWARD...
NOW I'LL CATCH THE GIRDER A MILE OR SO ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.'
HE'S GOING TO SUCH TROUBLE TO AVOID GOING NEAR MY PIECE OF KRYPTONITE--IT MUST BE THE REAL STUFF. YET--TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE, I'LL TRY ONE OTHER TRICK.'
TWANNNGGG!
MEANWHILE, IN THE LABORATORY OF THE SCIENCE TEACHER...
YES--I WAS RIGHT! GENUINE KRYPTONITE! HMM... I WONDER... WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH IT?
SCIENCE MAJOR
TOO BAD YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS SPECIMEN, SUPERBOY! IT'S REAL--AND WILL CAUSE YOU TROUBLE.'
NEXT DAY...
TODAY, SUPERBOY IS MOVING THE YOUTH HOUSE--AND I PLACED THAT KRYPTONITE RIGHT INSIDE! IF HE DOESN'T APPROACH THE HOUSE, I'LL KNOW FOR SURE!
LANA MUST BE PLANNING ANOTHER TRAP! NOW TO FOOL HER COMPLETELY SO THAT SHE THINKS HER FAKE SAMPLE OF KRYPTONITE IS REAL.'
SMALLVILLE YOUTH HOUSE
MOMENTS LATER...
I--ER--MUST HAVE--ER--BLACKED OUT A MOMENT. BUT--JUST TO--ER--PROVE MY POWERS AREN'T AFFECTED, I'LL MOVE THAT HOUSE WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING IT.'
AAAH! WHAT BETTER EVIDENCE COULD I HAVE?
SOON...
I'LL JUST REST THE CENTER OF THIS LONG METAL SPOON I FASHIONED OUT OF ORE ON THE BLOCK...
ALLVILLE YOUTH HOUSE
...AND PRY UP THE HOUSE.'
5

NOW AS I GO DOWN, THE HOUSE GOES UP! A LITTLE GAME OF SEE-SAW! AND WHEN WE'RE PERFECTLY BALANCED...
SMALLVILLE YOUTH HOUSE

... I SWING TO THE LEFT, AND THE HOUSE AND I EXCHANGE POSITIONS!
A VERY SPECTACULAR STUNT--BUT IT WAS VERY UNNECESSARY--UNLESS SUPERBOY PERFORMED IT TO AVOID GOING NEAR THE KRYPTONITE. WELL, I'M CONVINCED NOW. WE'LL SEE HOW CLARK REACTS TO IT.

NEXT MORNING IN SCHOOL... AN UNEXPECTED CONFUSION OCCURS WHICH RESULTS IN LANA SECURING THE REAL PIECE OF KRYPTONITE...
HMMM... THOUGHT I LEFT THIS KRYPTONITE IN THE LAB. GUESS I WAS ABSENT-MINDED. I'D BETTER TAKE IT HOME TILL I DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
HMMM... HOW ABSENT-MINDED CAN I GET? I WAS SURE I LEFT THIS IN THE DEMONSTRATION ROOM.

AND, A LITTLE LATER, WHEN CLARK APPEARS AT LANA'S HOME, IN ANSWER TO HER URGENT REQUEST...
CLARK--DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP! THIS IS KRYPTONITE AND I--I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I--I JUST WANT YOU TO ADMIT YOU'RE SUPERBOY!
AAAH--THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
HAVE YOU, CLARK? ARE YOU SURE?

SO WHAT IF IT IS KRYPTONITE? I'LL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL I'M NOT SUPERBOY! GO AHEAD! THROW IT TO ME! WE'LL HAVE A CATCH WITH IT!
WHY--ER--ALL RIGHT. BUT REMEMBER--YOU ASKED FOR IT!

YES--CLARK ASKED FOR IT--BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS ASKING FOR!
WH-WHAT? I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND! SUDDENLY--IT--IT'S REAL! I--I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS--FEEL FAINT ALL OVER!
OH, CLARK--I--I'M SORRY. DID YOU THINK I WAS BLUFFING? I--I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO BADLY HURT. DON'T WORRY. I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET!

AS CLARK'S CRUMPLED FIGURE LIES ON THE FLOOR...
I'LL PUT THE KRYPTONITE IN MY ROOM, TELL CLARK'S FOLKS TO CALL A DOCTOR. I MUSTN'T LET ANYONE KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
WHEW! WHAT A JAM I GOT MYSELF INTO! I WONDER--CAN I EVER CONVINCE LANA NOW THAT I'M NOT SUPERBOY--OR SHOULD I CONFIDE THE TRUTH AND ASK HER TO KEEP MY SECRET?
NEXT DAY, AFTER CLARK HAS BEEN HELPED HOME AND VISITED BY THE DOCTOR...
OH, CLARK! HOW ARE YOU?
FINE! NATURALLY I FEEL BETTER--NOW THAT THE KRYPTONITE ISN'T NEAR ME. YOU SEE, IT LOSES ITS EFFECT ONCE I'M OUT OF RANGE OF ITS RAYS--AND THAT WAS AN ESPECIALLY SMALL PIECE.
YOU--YOU MEAN YOU'RE ADMITTING YOU--YOU ARE SUPERBOY?
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO--NOW THAT YOU'VE PROVED IT BEYOND DOUBT?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TO IMPRESS YOU--SINCE WHEN YOU WEREN'T THINKING I WAS SUPERBOY, YOU HAD THE IMPRESSION I WAS SUCH A WEAKLING. NOW I'LL FLY FOR YOU...
HOW WONDERFUL! I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO KNOWS HIS IDENTITY!
I'LL SOAR UP AND--OOOF!
SUPERBOY! WHAT'S WRONG?! THERE'S NO KRYPTONITE NEAR HERE!
SUDDENLY...
NO--BUT YOU ARE--AND YOU'RE MORE DANGEROUS TO CLARK THAN KRYPTONITE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SHE THINKS THAT'S SUPERBOY UP THERE, BUT IT'S ONLY A REALISTIC DUMMY WHICH I KEEP ALOFT WITH MY SUPER-BREATH! AND MY SUPER-VENTRILIQUISM MAKES IT TALK!
NATURALLY THE KRYPTONITE AFFECTED CLARK--SEEING THAT YOU HIT HIM IN THE HEAD WITH IT. THE DOCTOR DIAGNOSED IT AS A CONCUSSION!
SO HE DID--AFTER I PRETENDED TO BE UNCONSCIOUS!

CLARK CAME OUT OF HIS BLACKOUT CONVINCED THAT HE WAS SUPERBOY--AND THE DOCTOR SUGGESTED HE BE HUMORED.
THEN YOU MUST HAVE LOANED HIM A SPARE COSTUME. OHH--I'M SORRY.
NOW I'LL USE MORE SUPER-BREATH TO GET RID OF THIS DUMMY FOREVER!
AFTER I GO--TRY OUT YOUR "KRYPTONITE" ON CLARK. I THINK HIS LAST FALL BROUGHT HIM BACK TO HIS SENSES.
LATER, AFTER "SUPERBOY" HAS DEPARTED...
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T HIT ME ON THE HEAD, I'M IMMUNE. SEE--STRONG AS EVER.
OH, CLARK--PLEASE FORGIVE ME! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT KRYPTONITE AND THROW IT AWAY WHERE NO ONE CAN FIND IT!
A LITTLE LATER, WHEN CLARK IS ALONE WITH HIS DAD...
THAT WAS QUITE A SHOW YOU PUT ON, SON--INTERESTING ENOUGH TO DIVERT LANA SO THAT I COULD EXCHANGE THE REAL KRYPTONITE SHE HAD FOR THE FAKE PIECE THE TEACHER HAD TAKEN!
--AND YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE REAL KRYPTONITE, EITHER. SHORTLY AFTER I RETURNED IT TO THE TEACHER, HE DECIDED TO THROW IT INTO THE SEA--LEST IT CAUSE TROUBLE! SO ALL'S WELL!
THE END

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